

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 07075 261528Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CCO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SCS-03

OPR-02 A-01 OC-05 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5144

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

1. IF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL ARE RAISED AT
TODAY'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY
PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE ON AN IF ASKED REPEAT IF ASKED BASIS:

-- QUESTION: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PORTUGAL?

-- ANSWER: AS I THINK WE ARE ALL AWARE FROM THE WIRES,
IT APPEARS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUCCEEDED IN QUASHING A
REBELLION LED BY MUTINOUS PARATROOPERS.

-- QUESTION: WAS THIS A COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE
GOVERNMENT?

-- ANSWER: I THINK THE SITUATION IS STILL NOT CLEAR
AND WOULD PREFER NOT TO GET INTO MOTIVATIONS AT THIS POINT.

-- QUESTION: BUT THESE PARATROOPERS WERE RADICAL-ORIENTED
WEREN'T THEY?

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-- ANSWER: BASICALLY I WOULD AGREE WITH YOU. BUT

THE PARATROOPERS HAD THEIR OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS AS WELL.

-- QUESTION: DID THE UNITED STATES TAKE ANY ACTION
DURING THIS CRISIS?

-- ANSWER: OF COURSE WE ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION
CLOSELY. THIS IS, HOWEVER, A PURELY PORTUGUESE INTERNAL MATTER.

-- QUESTION: HAVE ANY AMERICANS BEEN HURT? HAS OUR EMBASSY
BEEN ATTACKED?

-- ANSWER: AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, NO AMERICANS HAVE COME
TO HARM. THE EMBASSY IS WORKING NORMALLY.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP ANY Q'S AND A'S ON
PORTUGAL FROM TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING, AS WELL AS GUIDANCE
PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EVEN IF NO QUESTIONS
ARE ASKED.
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